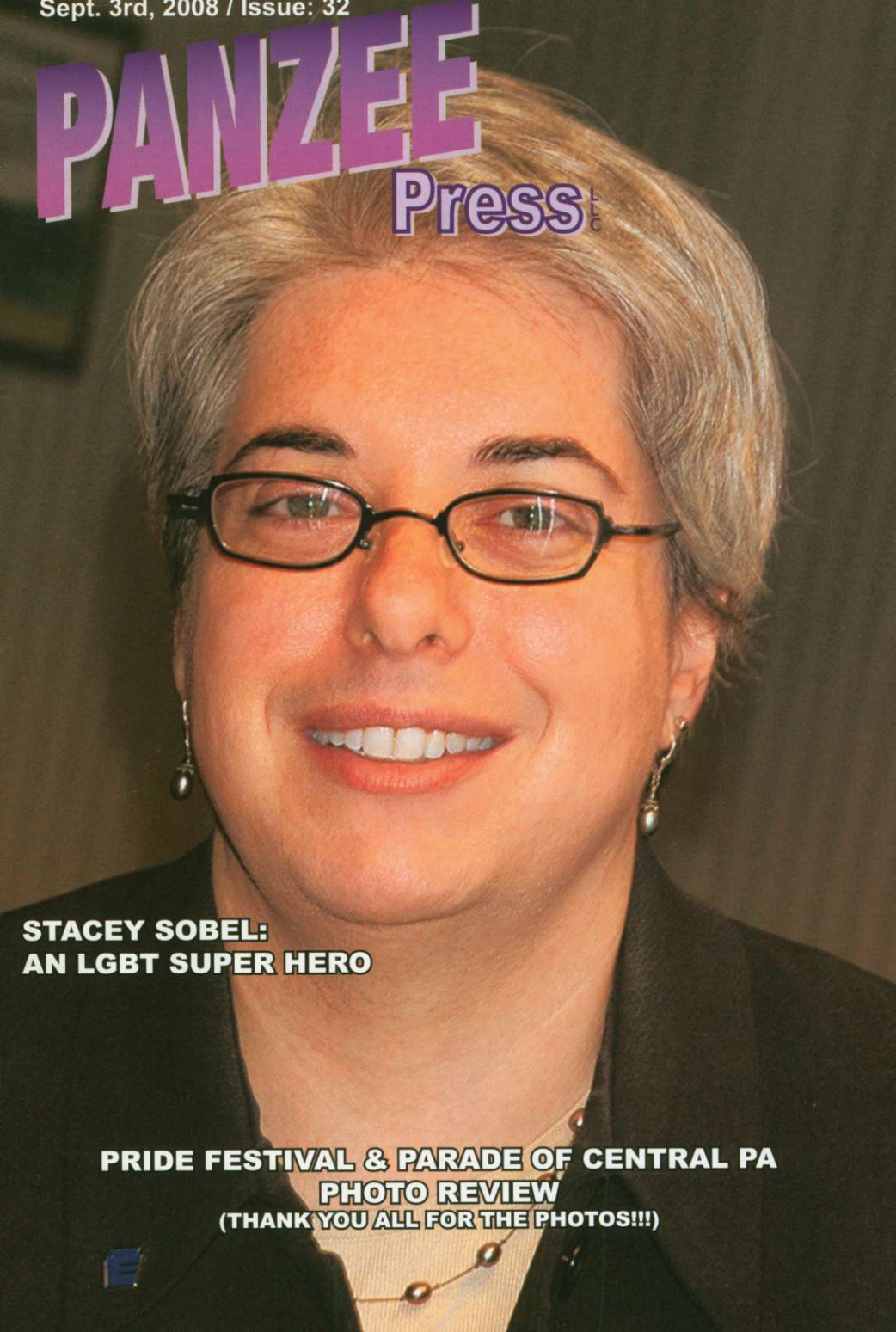


# PANZEE

## Press LTC

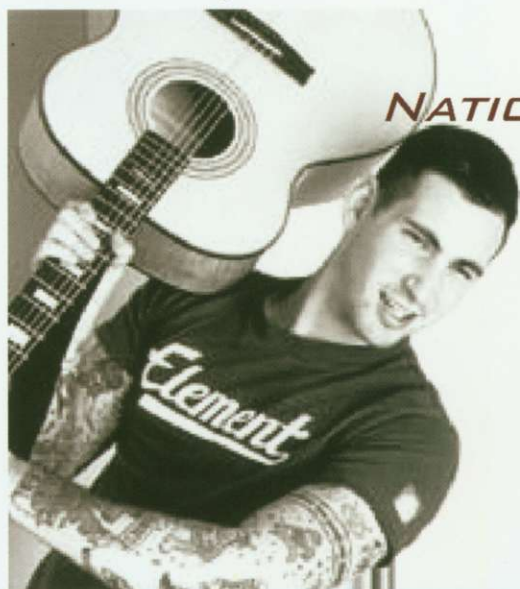
A close-up portrait of Stacey Sobel, a woman with short, wavy, light-colored hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a dark jacket over a light-colored top. She is smiling and looking directly at the camera. She is wearing pearl earrings and a necklace with dark beads.

**STACEY SOBEL:  
AN LGBT SUPER HERO**

**PRIDE FESTIVAL & PARADE OF CENTRAL PA  
PHOTO REVIEW  
(THANK YOU ALL FOR THE PHOTOS!!!)**

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Cover Photo by: Mr. Shannon P. Duffy  
American Lawyer Media

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# Stacey Sobel:

## An LGBT Super Hero

Stacey Sobel's resignation as the Executive Director of Equality Advocates Pennsylvania came as a shock and disappointment to everybody who has ever had a hand in Pennsylvania BGLQT politics. You should be comforted in knowing that there were no hard feelings as Stacey drew the path of her future regarding both her family and career. The initial objective of at least two years with Equality Advocates PA stretched longer than seven as she made great headway on legislation, including hate crime laws, employment protection, and marriage opportunities for those in a sexual minority. Stacey is seeking career opportunities that will allow her to continue to fight the same causes.

Philadelphia Gay News, Legal Intelligencer, and many more publications have written articles regarding Stacey's accomplishments and her recent resignation. All tout her as a powerful lobbyist and a strong force for our community. Stacey's journey has been carved deeply into the composition of civil rights. We can continue to watch, support and join her as we strive for strengthened equality.

### Accomplishments

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, with Stacey Sobel at the helm, can boast a long list of accomplishments. Stacey proudly cites "Devlin v. The City of Philadelphia" on the top of the list in the realm of legal services and policy reform. Equality Advocates PA is the only LGBT organization to co-council with a government agency. This case, decided by the PA Supreme Court, determined that a marital status of "Life Partner," defined by Philadelphia, does not conflict with state laws defining marriage, and the city is permitted to give domestic partner benefits to its employees based on this status.

Equality Advocates PA also co-counseled *Amici Curiae* (translated from Latin as Friends of the Court), to get second parent adoption and custody rights for LGBT parents. Starting in 2001, Equality Advocates PA was a driving force to include sexual orientation and gender identity to the state's hate crime bill. Equality Advocates PA has teamed up with the Human Relations Commission since 2003 to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression" into the Human Relations Act, providing the right to freedom from discrimination, housing and public accommodations to the LGBT community (this session, SB 761 / HB 1400). Besides these state issues, Stacey worked with many local governments on non-discrimination ordinances and domestic partner registries.



Stacey Prepares the troops prior to the Capitol SB1240 Rally on May 5th, 2008

Equality Advocates PA works on education and outreach, and they have reached tens of thousands of people, such as those in high school organizations, and community groups like PFLAG. They conduct professional training with judges, lawyers, and social service providers. They have motivated tens of thousands of people to rally against the marriage amendment acts of 2006 and 2008. Stacey oversaw the education of people on the risks and benefits of legislation and the law, as they apply to the LGBT community.

Equality Advocates PA assists approximately 600 people a year with requests for legal assistance and information. These cases may not make the big headlines, but Equality Advocates PA is often the only place they can go for legal assistance. This work is extremely important to the Pennsylvania LGBT community.

During Stacey's time with Equality Advocates PA, the organization flourished: it grew from two full-time staff members to seven; they moved and expanded their office; the administrative efforts were made more professional; and their income and budget tripled. Stacey attributes this growth, and the successes, to the incredibly dedicated staff.

### Reasons for Success

Colleagues with a history of lobbying and political activism have no trouble identifying key factors that make Stacey successful: experience, strategic thinking, credibility, trustworthiness, straightforwardness, empowerment of others, and passion. These are quite a few qualities for one person to hold; yet, the exponential factor of success is to intertwine these qualities and lead a coordinated group of people to specified goals.

As with any expertise, experience is a must. Stacey's resume is packed with work done for a multitude of organizations including grass roots, corporate and government agencies. She has covered a diverse set of issues.

Policy reform ends with a society understanding, accepting, and acting on principles that have not been widely recognized in the past. It starts with a dream, grows into a movement, winds through legislation, and becomes law. Each step of the way, more people are added to the cause. Stacey understands all the aspects of this track, leading from a dream and ending in policy reform. With that understanding, she can build a strategy.

This strategy involves a coordinated effort of many people from the dreamer, through grass roots efforts, other lobbyists, and to the legislators. Her credibility and trustworthiness, earned from her experience and straightforward approach, allows her to get the attention of all these people and teach them what they need to do. Stacey has the ability to empower people by directing their individual motivation and goals toward the policy reform.

Passion is the extra ingredient in Stacey's success that glues the rest together. The love of her work, the love of the people, her insistent belief in good over evil, fairness, justice and equality; this is what drives her. This is what makes her continue to search for solutions when they are not apparent. This is what causes her to move past the frustration when her actions do not initially achieve her goals. Stacey says this passion and drive is innate. "It was just always there," she states.

### **Toughest Battle**

Opposing the first attempt to amend the state constitution by redefining marriage as one man and one woman was Stacey's hardest battle as a lobbyist. This required a completely different type of advocacy with more tools. It needed the grassroots involvement and an unprecedented level of support of state constituents. Such support grew quickly, dividing the state 50/50 on this issue. The legislators supporting the amendment had no expectation that so many people would call, email, and visit on an issue related to the LGBT community. The depth and breadth of allies who came out in opposition to the amendment was surprising to many elected officials. Even with the surprising support, a daunting task remained for Stacey.

Stacey disclosed her strategy, "We knew at the beginning that if the legislation went to the House or the Senate, it would pass...as it did. So, how do we stop it from passing both in one session?" Stacey answered the challenge, "With all the support from the LGBT community and its allies, we were able to get the legislation amended to a watered down version. The new version left in the definition 'one man and one woman', but removed wording that would prevent domestic partners and civil unions. Most supporters of the bill didn't think this watered down version encapsulated its intent, so the momentum for the bill subsided, and the legislative session ended."

### **Career Path**

Stacey's career objective is to do what she does best, what she loves, and to let her passion lead her to her goals. While Equality Advocates PA was in line with her goals, she believes she can be more useful as a consultant for other organizations. Several factors led to this decision to leave her organization: the death of the marriage amendment bill, the lull in legislation as the 2007/2008 session comes to a close, elections taking the forefront, current chaos in the general assembly regarding charges of misappropriations of public funds, and a change of staff within Equality Advocates PA. Stacey thought it better to have a new executive director in place when hiring new staff, rather than her leaving in the middle of their orientation. Stacey will continue teaching at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She has a number of potential clients looking for a lobbyist as the 2009/2010 legislative session starts. She has already signed up with the Women's Law Project. We can all breathe a sigh of relief to know she is looking to continue her work with non-profits, such as legal aid providers for civil rights issues.

### **LGBT To Do List**

When Stacey prioritizes needed LGBT legislation, it is a bit surprising that the top three items match three of her top accomplishments. All have made great headway but there is still much to do.

**1)** We need a statewide LGBT inclusive amendment to the Human Relations Act that prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. This act is currently in session as Senate Bill 761 and House Bill 1400. There is strong support for this bill, and no valid reason why it should be slowed down. While we can get this moving now, the current legislative session will likely run out before these bills can be passed. If so, we can restart legislation at full pace in January.

**2)** The hate crimes amendment including sexual orientation and gender identity, which passed in 2002, was overturned in 2008 because of the manner in which it was enacted. The amendment was initially passed as an alteration to an unrelated bill regarding agriculture. This method of legislation was deemed unconstitutional, and the amendment was overturned. Stacey says the amendment has strong bi-partisan support and we should be able to get it through the 2009/2010 legislative session. While the primary legislators who moved this bill before are no longer in office, there are several legislators who have expressed interest on getting the ball moving again.

**3)** LGBT relationships should be legally recognized. Simply allowing same-sex marriage in Pennsylvania would attain this goal, but Stacey does not see that as realistic any time soon. During the 2006 and 2008 failed attempts to amend the state's constitutional definition of marriage, many supporters of the bills insisted there was no plan to remove or prevent LGBT equality in legal benefits. Such benefits include hospitalization visitation, medical powers of attorney, health insurance coverage, and estate transfer after death. Stacey wants to see these legislators put their words into action by securing these benefits.



***LGBT Team announces Life Partner Registry**  
Left to Right: Mamie Williams, Harrisburg Human Relations Commission; Patty Kim, City Councilwoman; Stacy Sobel, Equality Advocates, PA; Ben Dunlap, Attorney; Dan Miller, Councilman; Gloria Martin-Roberts, Councilwoman*

## **Best Reward**

Stacey cannot express enough the value of working with so many wonderful people. During her activist years, she met people from all over the state, in big cities and rural areas, and from corporations to grass roots efforts. She takes great joy in working with and getting to know the hundreds of people whose paths she otherwise would not have crossed. Stacey can even maintain professional and personal relationships with those opposed to her visions.

It takes a community, a movement, and many people working together to effect policy reform. To be a leader in this reform takes strategy, experience and passion. Stacey Sobel enjoys every step of the journey, as well as all of you who have helped.

## **Words from Stacey's Peers**

I have worked continuously and strenuously for equal rights for the LGBT community all of my life, even before I was elected to the State House and as a State Representative. I've gotten funding for those living with HIV and AIDS, introduced and almost got passed hate crimes legislation in the 1980's, helped openly LGBT advocates become committeepersons, and brought grants for local LGBT projects. But, I yearned for someone who could and would organize the grassroots efforts statewide to address equal rights, family, and violence issues in the LGBT community. I craved a professional who could lobby my colleagues effectively. Stacey Sobel was the answer to my dreams. Under her leadership at Equality Advocates, we have twice stopped in their tracks state constitutional amendments designed to hurt and denigrate Pennsylvania's gay and lesbian citizens. And because of her ability and dedication we have passed hate crimes legislation, and we are well on our way to amending the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission statute so that LGBT Pennsylvanians will be protected against discrimination in housing, public accommodations, and employment.

I am sorry to see Stacey leave the organization she built so successfully, but I know that she will continue to serve in many other important ways. And Philadelphia will be that much better for her presence and activity here."

*State Representative  
Babette Josephs*

Over Stacey's seven years working with Equality Advocates Pennsylvania she has proven herself trustworthy and credible to legislators on both sides of the aisle. In expressing her views, Stacey is always extremely well prepared, persuasive while not becoming aggressive, and always maintains an excellent sense of humor. She also brings to the table a wide range of experience from many organizations covering a multitude of issues. Stacey and I worked well as a team for many years in our effort to amend the PA Human Relations Act by adding "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or Expression."

*Stephen A. Glassman, Chairman of the  
PA Human Relations Commission*

Stacey is a life force for justice and equity. Our state, our country is better off because of her vibrant leadership. She has my deepest respect.

*Rev. Nathan C. Walker, Settled Minister  
First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia*

Stacey Sobel led me into activism for seeking my own equal rights. Her passion, drive, and strong beliefs taught me there is no reason I should accept a second-class citizenship. It's an empowering feeling to watch Stacey coordinate a grassroots campaign and articulate her viewpoints in a manner in which legislators can act.

*Bolton K. Winpenny, COO.  
Panzee Press, LLC*

Stacey Sobel has not only been a driving force for GLBT rights in Pennsylvania, she is a remarkably patient mentor to anyone who wants to follow in her footsteps. I have watched her testify at Senate committee hearings, and she is absolutely brilliant in her responses to their hardball questions. We'd be a lot worse off in Pennsylvania with regard to GLBT rights if it weren't for Stacey's leadership.

*Alanna Berger  
Chair, Rainbow EqUality Advocates*

Every GLBT person in Pennsylvania has benefited from your hard and successful work on legal and civil rights issues. Here's to you Stacey, and to all your future efforts.

*Liz Bradbury, Executive Director  
PA Diversity Network*

I've learned a lot about being a social activist just by watching Stacey work. I am very proud to have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with her over the last several years, and look forward to doing so again in the future. Stacey made herself available to us for advice several times as we were developing our organization, and the job would have been much more difficult without her advice and support. We wish her every success in her new work.

*Blaise Liffick, Director of Operations  
Silent Witness PA*

One memory that sticks out in my mind is when the national organization, "Equality Federation," held a marriage equality national summit for leaders of statewide organizations. Stacey, Steve Glassman, and I went, and Stacey was amazing. She knew about virtually every legal battle across the country and made Pennsylvania proud. Working with her for the last five years on projects in Northeastern Pennsylvania and around the state has been an honor. To have to measure the impact this one person can make on a cause is impossible. Stacey's real strength lies in leadership and coalition building. I am glad she will be sticking around to help the community, but on a statewide and leadership front she will be sorely missed.

*John Dawe, Executive Director  
The NEPA Rainbow Alliance*

Lancaster based Rainbow Rose Community has the opportunity to work with Stacey for only a short time earlier this year during the efforts to defeat SB1250. Stacey was always levelheaded, factual, thoughtful, and more importantly, had a real heart for the work she was doing - she was fighting not only for her own 'family' but also her brothers and sisters in the extended Rainbow Family. On behalf of myself and RRC - thank you Stacey for all your time and effort...take care and God Speed!

*Barry Russell  
Rainbow Rose Community*

As a trans woman and activist living in Pa, I would like to thank you personally for all that you have done to further our struggle to let people know we are here and just everyday people that need our basic rights. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

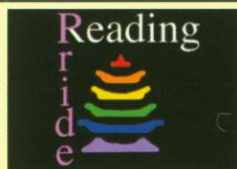
*Jacki E. Gaynor, Owner/promoter of  
Miss Gay Harrisburg America*

I had the pleasure of working with Stacey on several important battles. I found her to be energetic, creative, and strategic when dealing with legislators and the Harrisburg legislative system.

*Larry Frankel, State Legislative Counsel  
ACLU's Washington Legislative Office*

I came to know Stacey during the push for the hate crimes amendment bill about seven years ago and have continued the association since. She often stops by my office to discuss issues on the agenda, or just to say hello. As a mid-state republican legislator, I witnessed Stacey reach out beyond the usual narrow support for the LGBT community and gain entrance to people like myself. Ten years ago, if I counted the calls and messages on my desk, one or two would support Stacey's issues, while hundreds would be opposed. Now we receive about a 50/50 split on LGBT issues from our constituents. I believe this change is a direct result of Stacey's efforts and those that she has mobilized.

*Steve R. Nickol  
PA House Representative*



## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Reading Pride Celebration Picnic

**When:** Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
3PM – 8PM

**Where:** Laurel Run Picnic Grove  
From Route 61 North or South take the River Rd Exit  
make a right at the stop sign; continue on River Rd, Laurel Run  
is on the right hand side, if you get to a stop sign, you went too  
Far!!

**Tickets:** \$25.00 Each- B.Y.O.B. (Proceeds benefit 2009 Pride Event)  
Includes Non-Alcoholic Beverages  
Games (Softball, volleyball, basketball,  
Beer pong, horseshoes & more), Door Prizes,  
Buffet: Catered by Suburban Tavern  
Hot dogs, burgers, chicken, lasagna  
macaroni, potato, pasta salad, deviled eggs.  
Baked beans & more!

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**POKER TOURNAMENT PRIOR TO PICNIC 12-3PM \$20.00 BUY IN  
CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT 484-955-2948**

# Letters to the Editor

Thanks for including me in the early August issue. It's really an honor to have been on the cover! When I was interviewed about great local GLBT resources, I think I forgot to mention several other important Lehigh Valley and Berks County GLBTA organizations. Among my omissions I forgot to mention the fabulous Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, which has been making great music and providing educational, social and cultural enrichment for its members and its audience for 14 years!

Thanks again,

Liz Bradbury  
Executive Director,  
PA Diversity Network

Dear Panzee,  
Your coverage of the Pride Festival & Parade of Central Pennsylvania...

... SUCKED !!!

-- Love Everyone

*We are disappointed in ourselves with our coverage of the Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania and the parade. We had three photographers who volunteered to take pictures. However, for very different reasons, none of the photographers were able to provide us with photos. Since then we've managed to collect photos from festivalgoers, and have produced the spread in this issue... better late than never!*

Bolton Winpenny

We love the Panzee here at CCs and look forward to reading every issue. Last year we were too late to have our AIDS Benefit announced in the Panzee Press. This will be our 2nd Annual AIDS Benefit and Chinese Auction. Last year's benefit was a resounding success. We hope this year's will be even better! The proceeds will be going to Caring Community for Aids. The benefit this year is Saturday, September 13th. There will be door prizes and a lot of nice items included in the Chinese Auction. Tickets are \$5 in advance (available at the bar) or \$6 at the door. There is also a special drag show starting at 9:30pm. Doors open @7pm. Tickets for the Chinese Auction and a separate drawing for a grocery cart full of groceries (cart not included) are on sale now and until the night of the benefit. You need not be present to win. Drawing for the groceries is @ midnight.

Bryon Tharp  
Aids Benefit Chairman

What a treat to find Robert's and my smiling faces on the cover of Panzee Press today! His painting in the background looks great! The map as the centerfold is wonderful publicity for the Walk, too. Thank you so much for the wonderful publicity for Gallery Walk, and for Robert. The article about him is a delight & very interesting, with lots of information I did not hear before. You have outdone yourself with this issue! Thank you for being such a staunch supporter of the arts.

Carrie Wissler-Thomas, President,  
Art Association of Harrisburg

Politics is probably one of the things that you hardly think about, but you should. Politics and politicians are who and what run our country, sometimes for the better and sometimes in the wrong direction. This fall we have a chance to voice our opinion and our vote counts as much as any straight voters. This fall we will have the opportunity to elect not only a new President with a new agenda but also a new congressperson. Those of us who live in the 19th congressional district are fortunate that we have a man who is running and has our interests at heart. His name is Phil Avillo. I have questioned him at length about gay marriage, and his stance is that the establishment feels that we are not ready for marriage, but who are they to dictate to us? He feels that we as Americans should be granted the same rights that every straight person has. Why should we be denied our rights as citizens of this country just because we live a different lifestyle than that of the establishment? We aren't asking for anything that is not within the rights any American deserves.

Phil is willing to fight for our cause as he fought for our country in Vietnam. He is a decorated war veteran who has earned the Purple Heart, among many other medals while serving his country. He is a straight talking man who tells the truth, and when elected will continue to do so. He is a man we can count on.

Phil's opponent, incumbent Todd Platts has voted against most everything that we, as GLBT persons, not only want, but also need. Platts has basically been a rubber stamp for George Bush. He only voted with the Democrats when it was evident that the bill would pass regardless of his vote. Phil is his own man and will fight for our equal rights and never give up

Avillo's feelings about the Iraqi war are that we should have never gone into Iraq but should have finished our commitment in Afghanistan. The United States should have stopped the Taliban in Afghanistan rather than going after Saddam Hussein and his mythological Weapons of Mass Destruction.

He will work with congress and the President to solve the horrific economic situation that the present administration has gotten us into. The rise in gasoline prices cannot be solved just by drilling offshore, or decimating our wild life preserves. Even if we were to go along with the President, Sen. McCain and Rep. Todd Platts, and drill for oil now, we will not receive any benefits for at least seven to ten years. Phil Avillo wants alternative sources of energy now and in a way that will not destroy the environment.

Darrell F. Colwell

Absolutely GREAT and FANTASTIC article on the UU response to Knoxville!

Alanna Berger

# Dignity

## Are We There Yet?

By Fr. Jim Convery, Pastor  
Dignity of the Lehigh Valley

"We lived in the next house for six months. And the one after that for nine months. All in all, we moved eleven more times in the next five years, up and down the state of California. We kids kept asking at each move, 'Are we there yet?' But my parents would not arrive for many, many years. During this time, they struggled with depression and alcoholism as they searched for their place in this world." This is how spiritual writer Denise Roy describes her parents' journey of self-discovery in her book, *My Monastery Is A Minivan*, (© 2001, Loyola Press, Chicago.)

As a community of GLBT persons, isn't it true that we are on a journey to "find our place in this world?" As I reflect on our history as a community, it is quite apparent to me that we are moving toward some end-point, some place not yet arrived at, that there are achievements not yet realized. Crying out for justice is necessary indeed. Challenging the institutions that oppress us is our collective calling. But if that is all we do, it would seem to me that we are perhaps limiting ourselves from advancing our cause and from pursuing those freedoms we do not yet enjoy.

"Would that we have died at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread! But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine!" (Exodus 16:3) This is the collective cry of the Israelite people, complaining to Moses, having feared he had misled them to flee from Egypt, that land of slavery. Yet just one month earlier they were praising God for saving them from the hand of pharaoh. The women danced with tambourines, while the entire community sang, "Sing to the Lord, for God is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot God has cast into the sea." How fickle they were! They were people on a journey. They were making the great Exodus to the Promised Land. Yet they had fallen into collective amnesia when things got tough.

Yes, there are times when complaining is in order. When some Pennsylvania politicians proposed an amendment to the state constitution to ban same-sex unions, there was cause for opposition and protest. Fortunately, their bigoted voices have been silenced, at least for now. At the same time, we are encouraged by the successes our neighbors to the east enjoy, as gay and lesbian couples in New Jersey have enjoyed the benefits given to married couples since December of 2006 (although without the title "marriage"

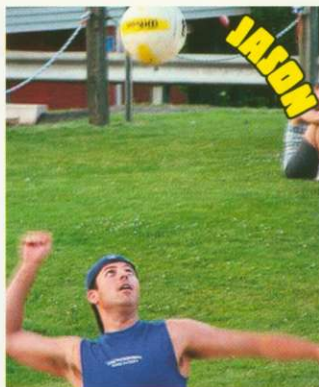
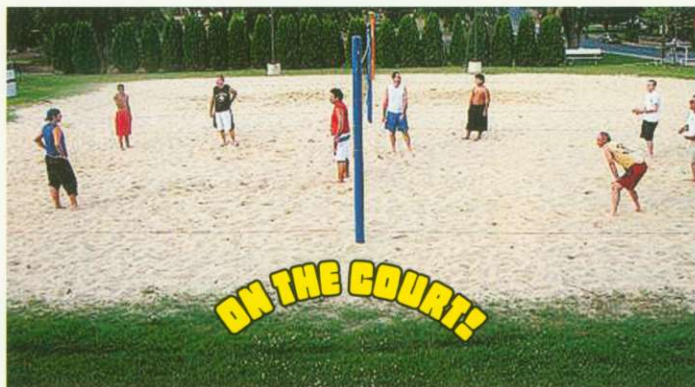
attached to these unions). Lest we grumble too much, I think it is important that we put things into proper perspective. In the 1930s and 1940s police in Germany registered approximately 100,000 gay men. During the Nazi regime, many of those were sent to concentration camps where at least 5,000 were exterminated. On November 27, 1978, openly gay San Francisco city supervisor Harvey Milk was assassinated by political rival Dan White at San Francisco City Hall. As recently as 2004, 159 GLBT persons were murdered in the country of Brazil because of their sexuality (Brazil has had the worst track record in the world concerning gay-related hate crimes).

Are we there yet? Certainly not. But we have come a long way, haven't we? We are on a journey. We are making an Exodus to a Promised Land of full inclusion, unconditional acceptance, our God-given right to proper justice and the freedoms enjoyed by heterosexuals. Moses never saw the Promised Land in his lifetime. Yet he remained committed to his call to remind the Jewish people of the covenant God initiated with them, a bond formed in love. Rev. Martin Luther King accepted this truth in his own way, aware of the "difficult days ahead," but realizing also that he had "been to the mountaintop," looking down on the Promised Land at which the African American community had not yet arrived. (He spoke these words the day before he was assassinated.)

We are not there yet. But we can stand on the mountain, and look down on the Promised Land, challenging the laws and policies that discriminate against us and at the same time, find joy and peace in what we DO have today, now.

Fr. Jim Convery leads the Lehigh Valley chapter of Dignity, a GLBTQ-affirming ministry founded in 1969 for Catholics and their friends. Dignity of the Lehigh Valley meets the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 6:00 PM at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Allentown, PA. ([www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com](http://www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com))

DignityUSA envisions and works for a time when Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Catholics are affirmed and experience dignity through the integration of their spirituality with their sexuality, and as beloved persons of God participate fully in all aspects of life within the Church and Society.



# GLOSS

The Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

## The summer schedule is now in effect:

### - Tennis:

Sundays at 5:00pm at the Muhlenberg College courts, 22nd & Turner Sts, Allentown.

### - Volleyball:

Thursdays at 7:00pm at Catasauqua Play-ground, 458 American St., Catasauqua.

### - Bowling:

The 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown.

### - Racquetball:

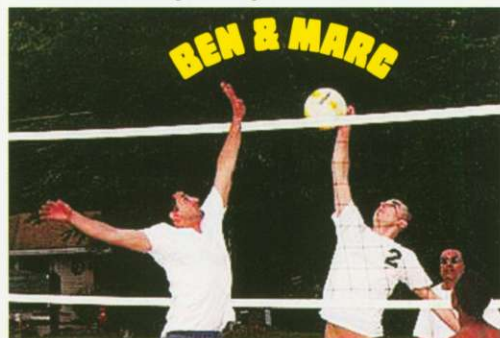
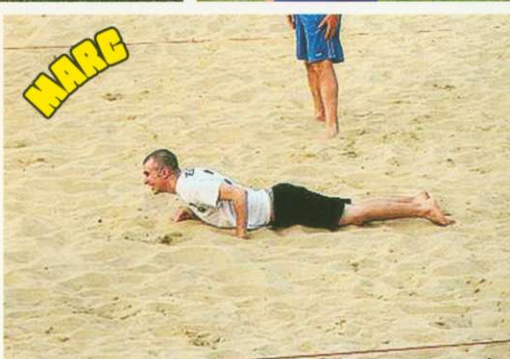
Every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

### - Pinochle:

Starting in the fall, the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown.

- Skiing, snowboarding & tubing in the winter.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website. GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website.  
Email: [Info@gloss.org](mailto:Info@gloss.org)  
Website: [www.gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org)



# ACA-PA

The United States has announced that for years we have been under-estimating the number of new annual HIV infections occurring in our country. We first got wind of this "problem" late last fall, and over seven months later the official government statement was released August 3rd.

The estimated number of new annual HIV infections occurring in the United States of America now is believed to be over 56,000, as opposed to the original estimate of 40,000 – an increase of almost 41%. There is no way to bury this stark and alarming fact.

The reality is AIDS Community Alliance has been seeing and responding to growing numbers of HIV-infected individuals and their families each year. The number of individuals and families requesting our care services has increased over 10% in the past twelve months.

The larger question is how are we, as a community, going to respond? The need for care and supportive services for those infected is obvious and increasing; so are the growing need for more HIV prevention programming and the ability for people to access testing in a safe environment.

AIDS Community Alliance is poised to respond. We need your help to make it happen! Consider making a contribution to support the programs and services of AIDS Community Alliance. If you have already given, please consider increasing your gift / pledge. The time is now! To make a contribution today, see our website [www.aca-pa.com](http://www.aca-pa.com).

Our challenge rests not in knowing what to do, but in if we, as a community, have the courage and the will to assure that all that is necessary is done. Together we can make the pledge that South Central Pennsylvania will respond with compassionate, coordinated and comprehensive services and programs.

I hope that you will join me in rising up to the challenge. Let's make a difference together!

Philip K. Goropoulos  
President/CEO  
AIDS Community Alliance  
of South Central PA  
401 Division Street, Ste. 100  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
717.233.7190  
fax: 717.233.7196  
[www.aca-pa.com](http://www.aca-pa.com)



**Megan**

**ACA-PA held their Mini Golf Challenge in Lebanon, Harrisburg and Lancaster the week of August 18th. Here are some attendees from the Harrisburg Day, held at City Island's Water Golf.**



**John, Phil, Jeremy, David & Colin**



**Beth, Hilary, Jen, Melissa & Rob**



**Dan, Don & Agnes**



**Scott, Kirk, Denise, Mike & Brad**

# Reviews by: Clayton Christopher



## **Batman: The Dark Knight:**

*A Review by Clayton Christopher*

The Dark Knight is exactly spot-on for the title of this film. Hollywood's obsession with superhero movies may be a bit tired, but this offering certainly is why the genre has become so popular. It is arguably the best film to emerge from this genre in years, or possibly ever. Batman is a hero derived from the seedy land of vigilantes, and it is good to finally see this aspect of the character developed on the big screen. The Dark Knight and its immediate predecessor, Batman Begins, are a welcome departure from the glitzy, goody-goody, pop-tart fare encapsulated by the earlier Bat movies released from 1989 through 1997. There's nothing pretty about this film, but it manages to blossom into a brilliant black rose that takes your breath away, literally at some points.

The Dark Knight will take you to a place that makes you ponder your own morality and what decisions you would make if you were in the place of the characters on the screen. In this aspect it reminded me of the "Saw" franchise, without most of the gore. The Joker, realized by Heath Ledger, is nothing short of amazingly, intelligently, and purposely sinister. He pushes all of the right buttons and plays all of the right games to perfectly manipulate the city of Gotham, and even Batman, into his tangled web of fear and misery. My favorite scene occurs when the Joker interrupts a meeting of the Gotham crime syndicate. He saunters up to the conference table at which the crime lords are seated, and when asked why they shouldn't kill him immediately, he replies "Because I'm going to perform a magic trick. I'm going to make this pencil disappear." While he is speaking a crime lord's bodyguard approaches him from behind. As the guard gets close the Joker raises his hand above his head and grabs the guard's head and slams it down onto the table. In doing so the pencil penetrates the unfortunate soul's eye and disappears into his brain. This happens relatively early on and I remarked to myself, "This is going to be a great movie!"

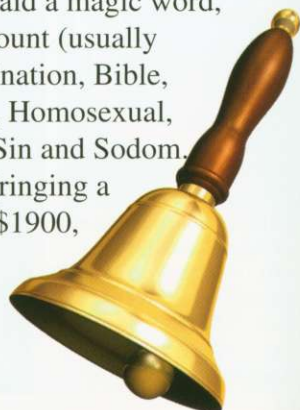
There are a number of scenarios created throughout the film that require decisions to be made that are very grey in nature, as in not black and white. They often involve who is worthy to be saved and who is not, and why. Batman's biggest challenge is to overcome the instinct to be honorable in the eyes of the public for honor's sake, or to let the people think he is not the hero they think he is for the sake of the greater good in the future.

The special effects are mostly top notch. Two-face's computer generated face was a little weak, but everything else, including Batman's echo location ability, is a cool visual effect. The Joker is creepy, but not entirely unlovable in a twisted, disfigured kind of way. Another memorable scene involves the Joker dressed in a nurse's uniform. There are explosions and a comical building exit which made most of the audience laugh.

There has been Oscar talk for Heath, who some think is undeserving. Take a look at his work in Brokeback as Ennis Del Mar, and here as the Joker, and tell me that he was not outstanding at taking on varied, challenging roles and coming out on top with stellar performances time after time. Heath, we will miss you...

## **PDN Magic Words**

PA Diversity Network (PDN) ran a "Magic Words Pledge Drive" during Lehigh Valley's Pride Festival. Each time a protester said a magic word, donators contributed a small amount (usually \$0.10). The words were: Abomination, Bible, Devil, Ex-Gay, God, [Grunting], Homosexual, Jesus, Lifestyle, Repent, Satan, Sin and Sodom. PDN staff counted 2632 words (ringing a bell each time), and raised over \$1900, which goes to Muhlenberg College's Gay/Straight Alliance, Pottsville PFLAG, and PDN's Youth Initiative.





# Capital Region Stonewall Democrats

By Jeff Welshans

**CHEERS** to those of you old enough to remember when David Letterman used to use Lebanon as one of his Top 10 list's "home offices" back when he was still on NBC's Late Night. Can it really be 15 years since he turned that show over to Conan O'Brien and moved to the Late Show on CBS?

**CHEERS** to the Bay State. Last month Governor Deval Patrick signed a bill that repealed a 1913 law, which barred out-of-state couples from marrying in Massachusetts if the marriages would not be recognized in their home state. Now same-sex couples from all 50 states can marry either on the East Coast in Massachusetts or on the West Coast in California. **CHEERS** to the day when they can also get legally married in Pennsylvania and Montana and Alabama and Utah and every other state in the union.

But **JEERS** to indecision. Now I can't choose between getting married on the beach in Provincetown or in the vineyards of Napa Valley. Although, before I make that decision, perhaps I should first find a husband...

**CHEERS** to John McCain's \$520 Ferragamo shoes. Those are some fabulous loafers. Of course, they -- along with McCain's \$40 million net worth and 9 residences -- make a mockery of Republicans' attempt to portray Barack Obama as the "elitist" in the race.

**JEERS** to career politicians who sell access to power for the right price. Not to name names, but State Senator (and "Marriage Protection Amendment" sponsor) Jeff Piccola was last seen lining his pockets by raising money at a private five-course wine dinner with a minimum contribution of \$500.

In contrast, **CHEERS** to Piccola's Democratic opponent Judy Hirsh. Judy has spent her time canvassing neighborhoods, not only listening to the voters, but also collecting canned goods for the food bank and care package supplies for the troops.

**JEERS** to procrastination. If you aren't registered to vote at your current address, don't wait until the October 6th deadline; do it NOW.

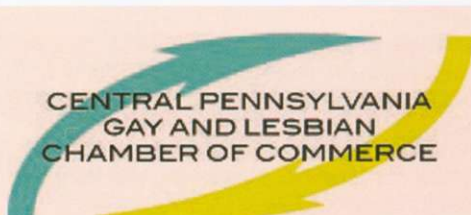
**CHEERS** to diversity. A record number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender delegates -- more than 350 -- attended the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado. This represents approximately 6% of total convention attendees and is a 27% increase from the 282 LGBT participants in 2004.

**CHEERS** to the eleven openly lesbian, gay, or bisexual Olympians in Beijing this year. In the Olympic spirit, we won't **JEER** that that's out of over 10,000 athletes who competed, but stick to **CHEERING** that the eleven athletes who are pub-

licly out will help pave the way for many more to join them on the other side of the closet before London in 2012.

**JEERS** to the Log Cabin Republicans, because this column just doesn't seem complete without a **JEER** for them.

**CHEERS** to political activism. Former House Speaker Tip O'Neill said that all politics is local, and we have a lot of local opportunities for you to get involved this month! You can join us in canvassing neighborhoods for Judy Hirsh, or help us staff the Obama office for a night, or join us on a pub crawl to gin up support for Harrisburg's domestic partnership registry. You can find information about these events and more at [www.CapitalStonewall.org](http://www.CapitalStonewall.org)



**Belvedere Inn will host the  
September Business Mixer  
for the  
Central PA Gay & Lesbian  
Chamber of Commerce  
on Wed. September 10th.**



**Crazy  
Shirley's**

Belvedere Inn  
402 N. Queen St.  
Lancaster PA  
(717) 394-2422  
Wed. Sept. 10th  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Dear Tweener,

I recently had a fall out with a friend over jealousy issues. They said they were sorry for treating me like shit and making a scene at my place of employment and things got back to normal (or so I thought). That person then slandered my partner's and my names, as well as our private lives, all over the Internet. When I confronted this person they acted like they did nothing, and I just flat out told them to \*\*\*\* off and never talk to me again, the friendship is over. Well, they just don't get it! What can I do to make this person realize what they are doing is pissing me off and that they just need to leave me alone? Can you help me please?

Sincerely,  
The Irritated One

Hmmmm...if I was told to @!#\$ off and never talk to someone again, I think that would be enough, but then again...I live on planet Earth. Jealousy, ey? That can be a very powerful and unstable emotion. What makes you think that is the root? Are they jealous of your partner? Maybe they are jealous of you? I am throwing questions at you because I don't have all the details. Regardless of what the emotional root or who it is directed at, plastering someone's private life on the Internet is WRONG! I understand your resentment, especially coming from someone you considered a friend. Bottom line is some individuals live in their own little world. Getting on my soapbox now...

Everyone knows the truth. Unless you are a complete sociopath or schizophrenic, everyone is aware of the truth in any given situation. It's a matter of trusting yourself enough to accept it. Your "former" friend cannot handle the truth because it does not fit inside the pretty little delusional painting he/she has created in his/her mind. Ask someone on the outside what they see, and they likely see another picture. People do know the truth, but they sometimes are too cowardly to admit it. Most people don't like confrontation. Ignoring, or "playing dumb," is the fastest way to deflect the issue. That's probably why your friend acted like nothing happened. Nobody wants to get caught. It's all fun until it rains on your gay pride parade. Your anger may pass with time, but he/she needs to step up and sincerely understand that what they did was wrong and hurtful. Until that formal apology occurs, you just have to avoid any unnecessary contact. There are always

choices to be made. You do what is best for you.



Sometimes in this life we have to do things that may not seem very comfortable for us at the time, but that is LIFE. We have the bad so we can appreciate the good. We would not know what true happiness is unless we had something crappy with which to compare it, and so we need to pay attention to our current state and be aware of the things: people, environments and situations around us. Life teaches you lessons. We have these lessons to teach us how to be stronger, better people. These life lessons show us how to weed out bullshit, and better yet, how to see that bullshit coming a mile away. But sometimes, people apparently like the aroma of bullshit...(getting off)...I meant the soapbox!!!!

Tweener has a Degree in Psychology and is here to help! Send your situational questions today.

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this column are the sole opinion of one unique and fantastic lesbian. Tweener is not responsible for any drama caused by the question answers. All names will be kept confidential. Please have a sense of humor sometimes...if you can't laugh at yourself, then someone else will!!!

## Wickedly Clean

### HOUSE CLEANING

DEPENDABLE • AFFORDABLE • THOROUGH • FRIENDLY • DISCREET • FLEXIBLE

Call Allison  
(717) 298-1287

Allison has been servicing our home for some time now, what a joy

We responded to this ad and are very happy with the ladies

Best phone call I ever made

Craig@TheRainbow@yahoo.com



# Central Pa. Pridefest



Photos by Micheal Burke



Photos by Robin McLamb



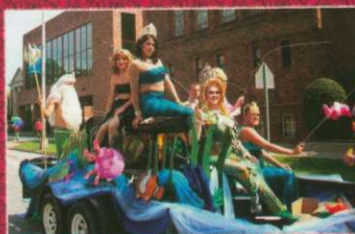
Photos by Jerry Hymes



# Central Pa. Pridefest



Photos by Whitley



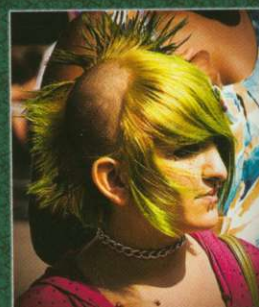
Photos by Michael Tindell

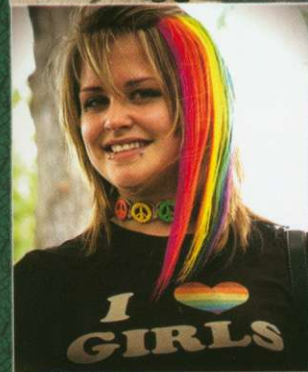
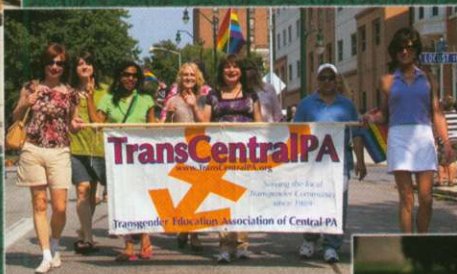
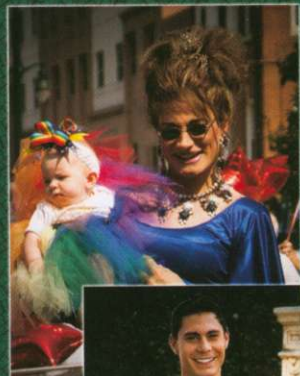


Photo by Blaise Liffick



Photos by Jed Boyd





# Pennsylvania: South Central

BARS		SPIRITUAL	SOCIAL	Weekly Events
<b>Harrisburg</b>				<b>MONDAYS</b>
Brownstone Lounge 412 Forster St. (717) 234-7009 M-F: 11a-2a S-S: 5p-2a <a href="#">Brownstone</a> <a href="#">Lounge.com</a>	<b>York</b> Club XS 36 West 11th Ave (717) 846-6969 Daily: 4p - 2a <a href="#">ClubXSYork.com</a>	MCC: Metropolitan Community Church MCCotS 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 236-7387 <a href="#">MCCofTheSpirit.org</a>	Volley Ball Baughman Memorial United Methodist New Cumberland Jim Akers 717-233-3172	Club XS 9:30 pm Wii Night Neptune's Free Buffet CPWC 7:00 pm Women's Chorus Rehearsal Colonial Park, UCC Lambda AA 8:00 pm Meeting
<b>Manheim</b>				<b>TUESDAYS</b>
Blue Bistro & Wine Bar 1313 N. 2nd St. (717) 909-6500 Mon-Sat 4p-10p <a href="#">BlueWineBar.com</a>	The Dawg Haus 168 S. Main St. (717) 665-0069 Thu-Sun: 6p-2a <a href="#">MySpace</a> <a href="#">TheDawgHaus</a>	Vision of Hope MCC 130 East Main St. (VOH-MCC) Mountville, PA 17554 (717) 285-9070 <a href="#">visionofhopemcc.org</a>	PA Womens Circle <a href="#">PAWomens</a> <a href="#">Circle.com</a>	Brownstone Free Darts Red Star 10:00 pm Trivia Stallions 9:00 pm Trivia MCCotS 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal VOH-MCC 7:00pm Joyful Noise Choir
<b>Lancaster</b>				<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>
Liquid 891 891 Eisenhower (717) 939-3590 Thu 5p-Midnight Fri, Sat 5p-2a Sun 11a-Midnight <a href="#">Liquid891.com</a>	The Tally Ho 201 W. Orange St. (717) 299-0661 Daily: 8p - 2a  Sundown Lounge 429 N. Mulberry St. Lancaster, PA	UCH: Unitarian Chch of Harrisburg 1280 Clover Lane Harrisburg, PA 17113 (717) 564-4761 <a href="#">HarrisburgUU.org</a>	TransCentralPA <a href="#">transcentralpa.org</a>  Renaissance of South Eastern PA (ROSE) (717) 332-1247 130 Main Steet Mountville, PA <a href="#">RenaissanceSEPa</a> <a href="#">@AOL.com</a>	Brownstone Free Pool Club XS Cash Bingo Neptune's Free Buffet Stallions 9:00 pm Karaoke Strawberry 7:30 pm Bingo MCCotS 7:00 pm Bible Study Volley Ball 7:00 pm Volley Ball \$3
Neptune's Lounge 268 North St. (717) 233-0581 Every Day: 5p-2a  Stallions 716 N. 3rd St. (717) 232-3060 Daily: 7p-2a <a href="#">StallionsClub.com</a>	Belvedere Inn 402 N. Queen St. Lancaster, PA (717) 394-2422 <a href="#">BelvedereInn.biz</a>  <b>Spring Grove</b> Altland's Ranch 8505 Orchard Rd. (717) 225-4479 Fri,Sat 8p-2a <a href="#">AltlandsRanch.com</a>	Unitarian Universal. of Lancaster (UUCL) 538 W. Chestnut St. Lancaster, PA 17603 (717) 393-1733 <a href="#">interweave.lancaster</a> <a href="#">pa@gmail.com</a>  Unitarian Universal. of Gettysburg 136 S. Statton St. Gettysburg, PA (717) 334-2929 <a href="#">uugettysburg.org</a>	Rainbow Bowling League ABC East Lanes 1001 Eisenhower Harrisburg, PA (717) 877-2659 <b>Political</b> <a href="#">Stonewall Dmcrats</a> <a href="#">CapitalStonewall.org</a>	Common Roads CmmnRds Hbg 221 N. Front Street Harrisburg, PA Common Roads CmmnRds Lanc. 538 W. Chestnut St. Lancaster, PA 17403 (717) 920-9534 <a href="#">CommonRoads.org</a>
704 Strawberry Café 714 N. 3rd St. (717) 234-4228 Daily: 4p-2a	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> Central PA Womyn's Chorus <a href="#">CPWChorus.org</a>  HBG Men's Chorus <a href="#">HarrisburgMens</a> <a href="#">Chorus.org</a>  Art Assoc. HBG 21 N. Front Street Harrisburg 717-236-1444 <a href="#">ArtAssoc</a> <a href="#">OffHbg.com</a>  Meat Locker Art Gallery 923 N. third St. Harrisburg, PA	<b>PAGEANT</b> Miss Gay America MissGay <a href="#">America.com</a>  <b>COMMUNITY</b>  LGBT Center Coalition 200 North 3rd St 8th Floor P.O.Box 678 Harrisburg PA 17108 <a href="#">CentralPaLgbt</a> Center.org  Rainbow Rose Community (717) 380-1071 <a href="#">@Rainbow Pet</a> Creations 305 N. Queen St Lancaster <a href="#">RainbowRose</a> <a href="#">Community.org</a>	<b>BUSINESS</b> Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce 3111 N. Front St Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 213-5034 <a href="#">CPGLCC.org</a>  <b>PRIDE</b> Pride CP Pride Festival of Central PA <a href="#">Harrisburg</a> <a href="#">Pride.org</a>  Lancaster Pride <a href="#">LancasterPride</a> <a href="#">2008.org</a>	<b>Youth Group</b> Student Advocating LGBTQ Equality Shippensburg <a href="#">ship.edu/~msa</a> <a href="#">SALE.htm</a>  Penn State Capital Alliance <a href="#">kma225@psu.edu</a> <a href="#">hbg.psu.edu/clubs/</a> <a href="#">capitalalliance/</a>
<b>HEALTH</b> ACA: AIDS Community Alliance of S. Central PA 401 Division St #100 Harrisburg, PA 17110 (800) 867-1550 <a href="#">ACA-PA.com</a>  Caring Together (CarTog) HIV Care Collaboration (717) 851-3643 <a href="#">familyfirsthealth</a> <a href="#">.org/ctprogram.html</a>  Lambda AA Gay & Lesbian AA Friends Meeting House 6th and Herr St Harrisburg Jim H. 717-379-3828	3.12 <a href="#">ThreeTwelve.net</a>  Arthouse Lounge 217 N. 2nd St. Harrisburg, PA			

# Pennsylvania: South Central

Weekly Events		Special Events		
THURSDAYS	Thu Sep 4	Fri Sep 12	Sat Sep 13	Wed Sep 17
Blue Bistro 6:00pm Wine & Cheese Tstg	Blue Bistro 4:00pm One Year Anniver.	Club XS 9:00 pm Swingers Meet & Greet 2nd Fri.	Janie Womack 8p @Camp Shand Women's Circle	MCC of the Spirit 6:00 PM 3rdWeek Board Meeting
Brownstone 8:00 pm Trivia	Kick-Off Party	Club XS 9:00pm Christopher Peterson	Pennsmen @Neptune's Leather Fetish Club	MCC of the Spirit 7:00 PM 3rdWeek Pastoral Care Meeting
Club XS College Night 18+	Fri Sep 5 Liquid 891 5:00 pm Take 147	Night of Illusion	Sun Sep 14 VOH-MCC	HIV Support 6:00 PM 3rdWeek Mulberry Art Stud. 21 N. Mulberry St. Lancaster. Chris (717) 397-0370
Dawg Haus 9:00 pm Bingo	Altland's Ranch Hourly Slow Dance	Liquid 891 9:00 pm Studs Magazine	12:00 PM 2ndWeek Jubilation Praise Trn	
Liquid 891 8:00pm Bingo	Common Roads 7:00 PM	Club XS 10:30 pm 10:30 PM 2nd Fri.	AAH 1:00 pm Lecture on Andy Warhol	
Strawberry 9:30 pm Karaoke	Lancaster 1st Fri. Common Roads	Ms Biscuit and her Double D's: Drag	Pennsmen 4:00 PM 2nd Sun. @Neptunes Meeting	Fri Sep 19 Club XS 9:00 PM 3rd Fri. Swingers Meet&Grt Club Sexy Cool
MCCoftheSpirit 7:00 Priase Team	7:00 pm Hbg Clue - The Game	Altland's Ranch 2nd Fri.	Mon Sep 15 CPGLCC	Altland's Ranch 3rd Fri. Country Line Dance
MCCoftheSpirit Prayer Group		Beer & Free Pizza MCCoftheSpirit	6:30 PM 3rdWeek Board of Directors	
Fern & Laura's Home	Sat Sep 6 Blue Bistro 4:00 pm One Year Anniver.	Sub-Regional Gathering Wknd		Dawg Haus Whitley's B-Day Drag Show
VOH-MCC 8:00 pm AA Meeting	Block Party Club XS 9:00 pm Miss Keystone	Sister Beat 9:00 pm @Camp Shand Women's Circle		UU of Harrisburg 8:00 PM Coffee House Sharon Katz
Penn State Capital 5p Library Rm 302 Alliance / Mddltwn Weekly Meeting	America Benefit TransCentralPA 8:00 PM	ROSE Transgender 8:00 PM 2ndWeek Meeting		
FRIDAYS	@MCCofthe Spirit Group Meeting Mara Keisling/spkr	Women's Circle Annual Retreat @Camp Shand womenscirclepa.org		
Liquid 891 5:00 pm Hot Flash Fridays For Women of the 70's, 80's, and 90's	Sun Sep 7 Club XS 4:00 PM 1st. Sun. Ladies Tea Dance			
Arthouse Lounge 3:00 PM SOEX Exhibition Common Roads	Drag King Contest Free Food, Pool			
7:00 PM @UUC of Lanc. Safe Space for youth	VOH-MCC 5:00 PM 1st Sun. Men's Group			
Lambda AA Meeting 8:00 pm	AAH 11:00 am Gallery Walk artassocofhbg.com			
SATURDAYS	Mon Sep 8 MCCoftheSpirit 6:30 pm Dinner Sharing our Caring			
Stallions: Ladies Ngt in Twin Peaks Bar				
Arthouse Lounge SOEX Exhib. 3:00 pm				
SUNDAYS	Wed Sep 10 CPLCC 6:00 PM @Belvedere Inn 402 N Queen Street Lancaster			
Club XS 10:00 pm Service Industry Night	Thu Sep 11 MCCofthe Spirit 6:00 PM 2ndWeek Grief/Loss Support			
Liquid 891 11:00 Brunch	Rainbow Rose 7:00 PM 2ndWeek Meeting			
Stallions All Age Dance				
MCCoftheSpirit Service 9am, 10:30 am, 7pm				
UCH Services 9:15am, 11:00 am				
VOH-MCC 10:00am Service				
HGB Mens Chorus 7:00 pm Reheasal				
Unitarian Church				

# Pennsylvania: North Central

Weekly Events		Special Events	
THURSDAYS	Thu Sep 4	Fri Sep 12	Sat Sep 13
Blue Bistro 6:00pm Wine & Cheese Tstg	Blue Bistro 4:00pm One Year Anniver.	Club XS 9:00 pm Swingers Meet & Greet 2nd Fri.	Janie Womack 8p @Camp Shand Women's Circle
Brownstone 8:00 pm Trivia	Kick-Off Party	Club XS 9:00pm Christopher Peterson	Pennsmen @Neptune's Leather Fetish Club
Club XS College Night 18+	Fri Sep 5 Liquid 891 5:00 pm Take 147	Night of Illusion	Sun Sep 14 VOH-MCC
Dawg Haus 9:00 pm Bingo	Altland's Ranch Hourly Slow Dance	Liquid 891 9:00 pm Studs Magazine	12:00 PM 2ndWeek Jubilation Praise Trn
Liquid 891 8:00pm Bingo	Common Roads 7:00 PM	Club XS 10:30 pm 10:30 PM 2nd Fri.	AAH 1:00 pm Lecture on Andy Warhol
Strawberry 9:30 pm Karaoke	Lancaster 1st Fri. Common Roads	Ms Biscuit and her Double D's: Drag	Pennsmen 4:00 PM 2nd Sun. @Neptunes Meeting
MCCoftheSpirit 7:00 Priase Team	7:00 pm Hbg Clue - The Game	Altland's Ranch 2nd Fri.	Mon Sep 15 CPGLCC
MCCoftheSpirit Prayer Group		Beer & Free Pizza MCCoftheSpirit	6:30 PM 3rdWeek Board of Directors
Fern & Laura's Home	Sat Sep 6 Blue Bistro 4:00 pm One Year Anniver.	Sub-Regional Gathering Wknd	
VOH-MCC 8:00 pm AA Meeting	Block Party Club XS 9:00 pm Miss Keystone	Sister Beat 9:00 pm @Camp Shand Women's Circle	
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FRIDAYS	@MCCofthe Spirit Group Meeting Mara Keisling/spkr	Women's Circle Annual Retreat @Camp Shand womenscirclepa.org	
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Liquid 891 11:00 Brunch	Rainbow Rose 7:00 PM 2ndWeek Meeting		
Stallions All Age Dance			
MCCoftheSpirit Service 9am, 10:30 am, 7pm			
UCH Services 9:15am, 11:00 am			
VOH-MCC 10:00am Service			
HGB Mens Chorus 7:00 pm Reheasal			
Unitarian Church			

# Pennsylvania: Lehigh Valley & Berks County

SPIRITUAL		Weekly Events	Special Events
<b>MCCLV: Metropol.</b> Community Church of the Lehigh Valley 930 N. 4th St. 1st Flr Allentown, PA 18102 (610) 709-8800 <a href="http://mcclv.org">mcclv.org</a>	<b>Reading Pride</b> <a href="http://ReadingPride.Celebration.com">ReadingPride.Celebration.com</a>	<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>Fri Sep 5</b>
	<b>PRIDE FESTIVAL</b> Pride GLV Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley 1101 W. Hamilton St. (610) 770-8200 <a href="http://PrideGLV.org">PrideGLV.org</a>	Red Star 10:00 PM Trivia Stonewall 10:00 PM Karaoke	Inspiration II 7:00 PM Art Exhibit Monsson Galleries 11 E. 3rd St. Bethlehem, PA
	<b>MUSIC &amp; ARTS</b> Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus (610) 366-3320 <a href="http://LVGMC.org">LVGMC.org</a>	MCCLV 7:00 PM Tejes Women's HAVEN 7:00 pm @ UUCVL Rm304	<b>Mon Sep 15</b> FACT 7:00 PM 3rd Mon. Board Meeting 200 Bl of N 12th  <b>Tue Sep 16</b> Stonewall SWITCH 10:00 pm Eddie/Nectars Birthdays
<b>SOCIAL</b> Takeover LV <a href="http://Takeoverlv.com">Takeoverlv.com</a>	Miss Drag All-Star Syrena Daniels (610) 573-8315 P.O. Box 463 Shillington, PA 19607 MissDrag <a href="http://AllStar.com">AllStar.com</a>	<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>Sun Sep 7</b>
		Stonewall 7:30 pm Pump Night 18+ GLOSS 7:00 pm Volleyball Catasauqua Park GLOSS 7:30 pm Racquetball @LV Racquet & Ftn 6th and Union sts. Rainbow Bowling 8:50 PM ABC East, Hbg	1stWeek Property Cmmittee FACT 23rd Summer Game @Rainbow Mtn.
		Diamondz 10:00 pm Pool League Diamondz Karaoke 10:00 pm	<b>Mon Sep 8</b> MCCLV 7:00 PM 2ndWeek Board Meeting
LV Bears Lehigh Valley Bears 610-432-0706	<b>HEALTH</b> Fighting AIDS Continuously Together (FACT) 245 N. 12th Street Allentown, PA 18105 (610) 820-5519 <a href="http://Factlv.org">Factlv.org</a>	<b>FRIDAYS</b>	<b>Sun Sep 21</b>
		Diamondz 10:00 pm Karaoke	Reading Railmen 3rdWeek @ Red Star
			Reading Railmen Fundrsing Meeting 220 Bl of N 12th
Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond <a href="http://gobab.org">gobab.org</a> <a href="http://myspace.com/_gobab">myspace.com/_gobab</a>	<b>COMMUNITY</b> PA Diversity Nwk P.O. Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 (610)-HELP-123 <a href="http://PADiversity.org">PADiversity.org</a>	<b>SATURDAYS</b>	<b>Fri Sep 12</b>
		GLOSS 8:00 pm Racquetball @LV Racquet & Ftn 6th and Union sts. Diamondz 10:00 pm Karaoke	GOBAB 8:45 Bowling 2nd Fri. Rose Bowl Bowldrome 15th & Sumner Ave
			<b>Sat Sep 20</b> GOBAB Scottish Fling Weekend
<b>BARS / CLUBS</b> <b>Allentown</b> Stonewall 28 North 10th St. (610) 432-0215 Tue-Sun: 7p-2a <a href="http://TheStonewall.com">TheStonewall.com</a>	<b>Youth Group</b> Haven Youth Group Universalist Church 424 Center Street Bethlehem <a href="http://Havenyouthgroup">Havenyouthgroup</a> <a href="mailto:uucvlpa.org/haven">uucvlpa.org/haven</a>	<b>SUNDAYS</b>	<b>Sun Sep 14</b>
		Stonewall 10:00 PM Karaoke Twist 10:00 pm Karaoke MCCLV 9:00 am Men's Breakfast Perkins on Lehigh St Allentwn MCCLV 10:30 am Sunday Service 10:30 am, 6:00 pm Choir Practice After Service GLOSS 5:00 pm Tennis Muhlenberg Collg 22nd & Turner Sts. Allentown	3rd Qtr B-Days Anthony's Trattoria 900 Byran St. Pennside PA Renaissance 8:00 PM 2nd Sat. @Moose Lounge Trans Mt & Grt. Reading Pride 3:00pm Picnic Laurel Run Picnic Grove \$25 BYOB
			Dignity 7:00 PM 2nd Sun. Catholic Liturgy @St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 1900 Penn. Ave
<b>Bethlehem</b> Diamondz 1913 West Broad St. (610) 865 1028 <a href="http://diamondz.net">diamondz.net</a>	Planned Parenthd of North East PA SPECTRUM LGBT Youth Spprt 48 South 4th St. 2nd Flr Reading, PA <a href="http://PPNEP.org">PPNEP.org</a>		
<b>Reading</b> Red Star Saloon 11 S. 10th. St. (610) 375-4116 Wed-Sat: 9p-2a	Alvernia GSA 400 St. Bernardine St. Reading, PA 19607 <a href="mailto:brou3391">brou3391</a> <a href="mailto:@alvernia.edu">@alvernia.edu</a>		

Calendar

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## Pennsylvania: North East

<u>BARS / CLUBS</u>	<u>Weekly Events</u>
<u>Wilkes-Barre</u>	<u>WEDNESDAYS</u>
Twist	12 Penny
Fox Ridge Plaza	10:00 PM
1170 Highway 315	Karaoke
(570) 825-7300	Michael's
Mon-Sat 8p-2a	10:00 PM
Sun 7p-10p	Karaoke
<a href="http://twistbarpa.com">twistbarpa.com</a>	RumorsAltoona
	10:00 PM
<u>Moosic</u>	Karaoke
12 Penny Saloon	
3501 Birney Ave	<u>FRIDAYS</u>
(570) 941-0444	Twist
Daily 2p - 2a	10:00 PM
<a href="http://12PennySaloon.com">12PennySaloon.com</a>	All Age Dance
<u>Edwardsville</u>	<u>Special Events</u>
Michael's Lounge	Fri Sep 5
429 Main St.	Woods
(570) 287-9300	Disco Weekend
Tue-Sun 7p-2a	Miss Woods
<a href="http://MichaelsLounge.com">MichaelsLounge.com</a>	Drag Pageant
<u>Pottsville</u>	<u>Sat Sep 6</u>
Rumors Pottsville	Twist
661 North Centre t.	10:00 PM 1stWeek
(570) 622-6867	All Age Dance
	Twist
<u>SOCIAL</u>	HighSchool Musical
NEPA Leathermen	The Real Wildcats
<a href="http://nepa-leathermen.com">nepa-leathermen.com</a>	
<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>Tue Sep 9</u>
Rainbow Alliance	Pride NE
512 Northampton St.	6:30 PM 2ndWeek
Room 218	Tony D's Pizza
Kingston, PA 18704	295 S. Main St.
(570) 606-4410	Membership Mtg
<a href="http://GayNEPA.com">GayNEPA.com</a>	
<u>HEALTH</u>	<u>Fri Sep 12</u>
Caring Communities	Woods
for AIDS (CCA)	Bears II
301A West Third St.	Weekend
Berwick, PA 18603	Pig Roast
570-752-5655	
<u>Myspace:</u>	<u>Sat Sep 13</u>
<a href="http://CaringCommunities">CaringCommunities</a>	12 Penny Saloon
<a href="http://ForAIDS">ForAIDS</a>	Braking the Cycle
	Fundraiser
FREE HIV TESTING	Bike Ride
American Red Cross	Twist
256 N. Sherman St.	A Cher Tribute
Wilkes-Barre, PA	
(570) 823-7161x345	<u>Fri Sep 19</u>
<a href="http://myspace.com/">myspace.com/</a>	Woods
<a href="http://AmericanRed">AmericanRed</a>	Country Western
<a href="http://CrossWVChaper">CrossWVChaper</a>	Weekend
FREE HIV TESTING	<u>RESORT</u>
Wyoming Valley AIDS	Woods Campground
Council	845 Vaughn Acres Ln
183 Market St. #102-A	Lehigh, PA 18235
Kingston, PA 18704	(610) 337-9577
(507) 823-5808	<a href="http://thewoodscamp">thewoodscamp</a>
<a href="http://wvacinc.org">wvacinc.org</a>	<a href="http://ground.com">ground.com</a>

## Maryland: West

<u>BARS</u>	<u>Special Events</u>	<u>Weekly Events</u>
Deer Park Lodge	<u>Thu Sep 4</u>	<u>MONDAYS</u>
21614 National Pike	New Light MCC	Alcoholics Anon
Boonsboro, MD	7:30pm 1st Thu	7:30 PM
(301) 797-7672	Emergent Church	@Charles Town
Thu, Fri, Sat	Worship	Presbyterian Church
<a href="http://DeerParkLodge.net">DeerParkLodge.net</a>		220 E. Washington
	<u>Fri Sep 5</u>	
Fusion Ultra Lounge	Deer Park Lodge	<u>TUESDAYS</u>
10 W. College Ter	Ghetto&Glamour	Al-Anon
Frederick, MD	Show 1st Fri.	7:30 PM
Thursdays Nights		Metropolitan
(301)695-7200	<u>Fri Sep 12</u>	Community Church
<u>SOCIAL</u>	Deer Park Lodge	15817 Barnesville Rd
Community Triangle	2nd Fri.	Boys, MD
40 W. Church St.	Retro Night	Alcoholics Anon
Hagerstown, MD		6:30 PM
(301) 733-1465	<u>Sat Sep 13</u>	@New Light MCC
<u>community</u>	Hagerstown TGs	Positive Influence
<a href="http://Trinagle.org">Trinagle.org</a>	7:00 PM 2ndWeek	6:30 PM
Hagerstown TGs	@New Light MCC	HIV/AIDS Support
Transgender	Support Group	
TerriLeeTG	Positive Influence	<u>WEDNESDAYS</u>
<a href="mailto:TYahoo.com">TYahoo.com</a>	Annual Benefit Shw	GGs
	@R. Tally Rec Ctr	4:30 PM
Out For Fun	301-631-1054	Tini Lounge
War Memorial Park		New Light MCC
Martinsburg, WV	<u>Sun Sep 14</u>	6:00 PM
<a href="http://TimHott">TimHott</a>	Rainbow	6:00 pm pot luck
<a href="mailto:TYNationwide.com">TYNationwide.com</a>	1:00 PM 2ndWeek	7:00 Worship
	Connections	7:30 Bible Study
Tini Lounge	Book Club	
Happy Hour Club	301-739-6629	<u>THURSDAYS</u>
The Gourmet Goat		Deer Park Lodge
41 N. Potomac St.	<u>Fri Sep 19</u>	Karaoke
Hagerstown, MD	Deer Park Lodge	Fusion
(301) 790-2343	3rdWeek	until 12:00
	Cabaret Show	Ultra Lounge Night
<u>SPIRITUAL</u>	<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>SATURDAYS</u>
New Light MCC	Community Triangle	New Light MCC
40 W. Church St	<u>Community</u>	9:30 AM
Hagerstown, MD	<a href="http://Triangle.org">Triangle.org</a>	Food & Friends
(301) 797-5698	Equality Maryland	Meal Distribution
<a href="http://NewLightMCC.com">NewLightMCC.com</a>	<a href="http://EqualityMaryland.org">EqualityMaryland.org</a>	New Image
	<u>ART</u>	6:00 PM
<u>HEALTH</u>	Rapscallion Art	@New Light MCC
Positive Influence	40 W. Church St.	Narcotics Anonym.
40 W. Church St.	Hagerstonw, MD	
Hagerstown, MD	<a href="http://RapscallionArt.org">RapscallionArt.org</a>	<u>SUNDAYS</u>
<a href="http://positive">positive</a>	<u>RESTAURANT</u>	New Light MCC
<a href="http://Influence.org">Influence.org</a>	The Gourmet Goat	10:30 AM
	41 N. Potomac St.	Sunday Worship
New Image	Hagerstonw, MD	Out for Fun
12 Steps	(301) 790-2343	3:00 PM
40 W. Church St	<u>BUSINESS</u>	Volleyball
Hagerstonw, MD	Rainbow	Alcoholics Anon
<a href="http://na.org">na.org</a>	Connections	3:00 PM
Alcoholics Anonym.	14 1/2 E.	@Shepherdstown
40 W. Church St.	Washington St	Presbyterian Church
Hagerstown, MD	Hagerstonw, MD	King & Washington
<a href="http://aa.org">aa.org</a>	(301) 739-6629	(304) 728-7663
	<a href="http://RainbowConn">RainbowConn</a>	
	<a href="http://ActionLLC.com">ActionLLC.com</a>	

## Rehoboth Beach, DE

BAR / RESTAUR	COMMUNITY	Weekly Events		Special Events
Aqua Grill 57 Baltimore Ave (302) 226-9001 AquaGrill ^Rehoboth.com	Camp Rehoboth 37 Baltimore Ave (302) 227-5620 CampRehoboth.com	MON - THU	FRIDAYS	Fri Sep 5
		Blue Moon 6:00 pm Pamala Stanley	Cloud 9 5:00 pm Ladies Tea	Frogg Pond 5:30p Jay Hoad
		MONDAYS	Partners Bistro John Flynn	Frogg Pond 9:30p Divas of One Love
Blue Moon 35 Baltimore Ave (302) 227-6515 BlueMoon ^Rehoboth.com	HEALTH Sussex County AIDS Committee (SCAC) (302) 644-1090 SCACInc.org	Frogg Pond 9:30p Pete f/ Loveseed	Purple Parrot Karaoke 9:00 pm	Sat Sep 6
		Partners Bistro Ghosha	SATURDAYS	Frogg Pond 9:30p Divas of One Love
		TUESDAYS	Cloud 9 5:00 pm Ladies Tea	Thu Sep 11
Cloud 9 234 Rehoboth Ave (302) 226-1999	AIDS Delaware (302) 652-6776 AIDSDelaware.org	Partners Bistro Ghosha	Partners Bistro John Flynn	Blue Moon 5:00p Classic Disco Tea
		WEDNESDAYS	Purple Parrot Karaoke 9:00 pm	Fri Sep 12
		Frogg Pond 5:30 pm Viki Dee	SUNDAYS	Frogg Pond 9:40p Gay Pride Weekend Wicked Jezabel
Double L Bar 622 Rehoboth Ave (302) 227-0818 DoubleLBar.net		Frogg Pond 9:30 pm Jazz and Blues	Cloud 9 10:00 pm Drag Show	
		Partners Bistro John Flynn	Miss Peaches	Sat Sep 13
Frogg Pond 3 First St (302) 227-2234 TheFroggPond.com		Camp Rehoboth 7:00 PM	Frogg Pond 4:00 pm Belly Up	Delaware PrideFest @Gordon's Pond
		Gay Men's	Frogg Pond 9:00 pm Karaoke	Fri Sep 19
		Discussion Group	Partners Bistro	Frogg Pond 9:40p Electric Velvet
Iguana Grill 52 Baltimore Ave (302) 227-0948 IguanaGrill.com		Frogg Pond 5:30 pm Business Mixer	John Flynn	
		THURSDAYS	Purple Parrot Drag Show 10:00 pm	Sat Sep 20
		Blue Moon Karaoke 9:30 pm	Camp Rehoboth 5:30 PM	Frogg Pond 9:30p Electric Velvet
		Martinis & Mona	Narcotics Anon.	
Partners Bistro /Piano 404 Rehoboth Ave (302) 226-020/ Partners-Bistro.com		Frogg Pond 8:30pm Irvia & Karaoke		
		Partners Bistro John Flynn		

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## Asbury Park, NJ

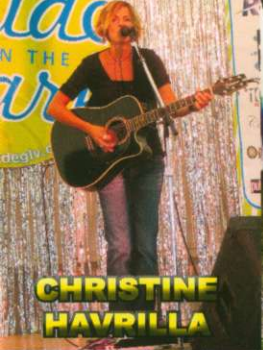
BARS / CLUBS	Weekly Events			Special Events
Cruisin / Circuit 911 Kingsley St. (732) 776-7661 CruisinThe ^Circuit.com	WED - SUN	MONDAYS	FRIDAYS	Fri Sep 5
	Cruisin / Circuit 11:00 pm Go-Go Boys	Georgies 11:30 PM Drag Warz	Paradise Paradise Follies Drag Show	Georgie's 10:30 PM Josh Zuckerman
		TUESDAYS	SATURDAYS	Cruisin / Circuit 1stWeek Leather Night
Pardise 101 Asbury Ave (732) 988-6663 ParadiseNJ.com		Georgies Game Night Free Pool	Georgies Karaoke Paradise 6:30 pm Country	Fri Sep 19
		WEDNESDAYS	Free Lessons 8p	Paradise Gay Day'@ SixFlags
Georgies Bar 812 5th Ave (732) 988-1220 GeorgiesBar.com		Georgies Karaoke	Paradise 10:00 PM Retro Dance Party	Sat Sep 20
		THURSDAYS		Cruisin / Circuit 3rdWeek Bear Night
RESTAURANTS		Georgies Bears & Cubs	SUNDAYS	
Restaurant Plan B 705 Cookman Ave Asbury Park, NJ		Paradise 9:00 PM Fuego Latino	Cruisin / Circuit Chantel Curtis Show 10:00 pm Paradise 4:00 PM TeaDance @Pool	

# Philadelphia, PA

COMMUNITY	BAR / CLUBS			BAR RESTAURANT
William Way LGBT Community Center 1315 Spruce St. (215) 732-2220	12th Air Command 254 S. 12th St. (215) 545-8088 <a href="http://12thair.com">12thair.com</a>	Pure 1221 Saint James (215) 735-5772 <a href="http://PurePhilly.com">PurePhilly.com</a>	Transit 600 Spring Garden (267) 258-1321	Bump 1234 Locust St. (215) 732-1800 <a href="http://BumpLounge.com">BumpLounge.com</a>
Equality Advocates PA 1211 Chestnut St. #601 (215) 731-1447 <a href="http://EqualityPA.org">EqualityPA.org</a>	Bike Stop 206 S. Quince St. (215) 627-1662 <a href="http://TheBikeStop.com">TheBikeStop.com</a>	Sisters 1320 Chancellor (215) 735-0735	Libations 231 Broad St. (610) 275-8136	Tavern On Camac The Underground 243 S. Camac St. (215) 545-0900 <a href="http://TavernOnCamac.com">TavernOnCamac.com</a>
Rainbow Partnership of Philadelphia <a href="http://RainbowPartnership.org">RainbowPartnership.org</a>	Bob & Barbara's 1509 South St. (215) 545-4511	XO Lounge 1437 South St. (215) 735-2220 <a href="http://XOLounge.com">XOLounge.com</a> <a href="http://NightClub.com">NightClub.com</a>	Westbury 261 S 13th St (215) 546-5170	
To list your Philly or Baltimore organization or event worth traveling for: <a href="mailto:Panzee@PanzeePress.com">Panzee@PanzeePress.com</a>	Woody's 202 S. 13th St. (215) 545-1893 <a href="http://Woody'sBar.com">Woody'sBar.com</a>	Uncles 1220 Locust St. (215) 546-6660		RESTAURANT Astral Plane 1708 Lombard St. (215) 546-6230
	Key West 207 S. Juniper St (215) 545-1578	Venture Inn 255 S. Camac (215) 545 8731		Circa 1518 Walnut St. (215) 54506800
				Cresheim Cottage 7402 Germantown (215) 248-4365
	HOTELS			White Dog Café 3420 Sansom St. (215) 386-9224
	Antique Row B&B 341 S. 12th St. (212) 592-7802	Latham Hotel 135 S. 17th st. (215) 625-2900	Gables B&B 4520 Chester Ave (215) 662-1918	
	Gaskill House B&B 312 Gaskill St. (215) 561-1776	Alexander Inn 301 S. 12th St. (215) 923-3535	Uncle's Upstairs Inn 1220 Locust St (215) 546-6660	

# Baltimore, MD

BARS & CLUBS		COMMUNITY	HOTELS
Hippo One W. Eager @Charles St. (410) 576-0018 <a href="http://clubhippo.com">clubhippo.com</a> MySpace: clubhippo	Rowan Tree (410) 468-0550 1633 S. Charles St. <a href="http://TheRowanTree.net">TheRowanTree.net</a>	Gay & Lesbian Community Ctr of Baltimore (GLCCB) (410) 837-5445 241 West Chase St. Baltimore, MD <a href="http://glccb.org">glccb.org</a>	Admiral Fell Inn 888 S. Broadway *410) 522-7377 Biltmore Suites 205 W. Madison St (800) 686-5064 Gramercy Mansion 1400 Greenpring Valley Rd (800) 553-3404
Leons of Baltimore (410) 539-4993 870 Park Ave <a href="http://LeonsBaltimore.tripod.com">LeonsBaltimore.tripod.com</a>	Club Bunn's 608 W. Lexington St. (410) 234-2866 Club Orpheus 1003 E. Pratt St. (410) 276-5599	Phoenix 1 W. Biddle St. (410) 837-3906 <a href="http://baltimore-phoenix.net">baltimore-phoenix.net</a>	
Drinkery (410) 225-3100 203-207 W. Read St. <a href="http://drinkery.net">drinkery.net</a>	Quest (410) 563-2617 3607 Fleet St. <a href="http://QuestBarBalt.com">QuestBarBalt.com</a>	Baltimore Eagle 2022 N. Charles St. (443) 524-3289 <a href="http://TheBaltimoreEagle.com">TheBaltimoreEagle.com</a>	
Jay's on Read 225 W. Read St. <a href="http://JaysOnRead.biz">JaysOnRead.biz</a> (410) 225-0188	Coconuts Café (410) 383-6064 3111 W. Madison St. <a href="http://coconutscafe.com">coconutscafe.com</a>		
	Blue Parrot 5860 Belair Rd. (410) 254-3785 <a href="http://BlueParrotBar.com">BlueParrotBar.com</a>	BAR RESTAURANT Mt. Vernon Stable & Saloon 909 N. Charles St. (410) 685-7472	November 2nd Equality Maryland Jazz Brunch Marriott Waterfront Hotel Baltimore, MD



**CHRISTINE HAVRILLA**



**JUDY & LUCY**



**CINDY, GYNNE, JESSE, RENEE, KATE, & LAURA**



**ANGELA, DAWN & DAWN**



**BEN WITH PRIDE SPONSORS**



**MIKE**



**KIMBERLY, ZANE & DENNIS**



**PMEHEMIAN & LUCHIEN**



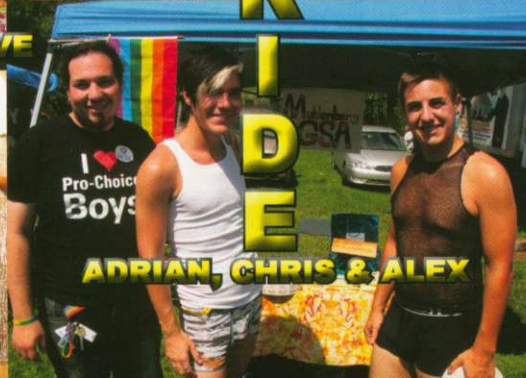
**NEMESIS**



**CHRIS, ROBERT & DAVE**



**GOD-DES & SHE**



**ADRIAN, CHRIS & ALEX**



**DEAN & JIM**

# CCS Pageant Review



CCs held there Mr. CC's pageant on Saturday, August 16th. Joey Morganhere took the kingdom over 3 other contestants: Damian, Sebastian and Mezro. Scores were very close and without the audience vote, it would have been closer yet. While Joey won by only a few votes, Sebastian won evening wear, on stage question, and talent. Performers for the evening were Tequila, Miss CC's Ivana Steele, Lady Tabitha, Chynna Buffet, Terra (Tits McGee), Dick Fitzwell, Guadalupe Del Fuego, (Miss NEPA), and the former Mr CC's; Jayden's final performance. A great time was had by all and the evening was a great success. A BIG THANK YOU to Sharon Pavelko, who without her there would not have been a Mr CC's Pageant. Sharon sponsored the show out of her own pocket and hosted the show.

## Update from the LGBT Center Coalition

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Center Coalition and the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus are offering events in celebration of National Coming Out Day this fall. The Center Coalition is hosting speaker Beth Stroud on Friday, October 10th and the Womyn's Chorus will be hosting a concert featuring Tret Fure at the Unity Church in Enola on Saturday, October 11th.

National Coming Out Day is observed annually on October 11th, and is a civil awareness day for coming out and discussing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. Kicking off the weekend on Friday, October 10th, Beth Stroud will speak on her experiences involving coming out. Beth served as an ordained United Methodist pastor at the First United Methodist Church of Germantown for six years before losing her clergy credentials in a 2004 church trial. In the trial, Beth was found guilty of "practices declared by the United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teaching," because she acknowledged living in a committed relationship with another woman. For more information on Beth Stroud, please visit her website, [www.bethstroud.info](http://www.bethstroud.info).

The event will last from 7:00-8:00 pm, with a \$5 suggested donation at the door. Check our website, [www.centralpalgbtcenter.org](http://www.centralpalgbtcenter.org), for venue information. The celebration continues on Saturday at the Unity

Church in Enola, as the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus presents Tret Fure, an award-winning independent musician whose career has spanned four decades. Fure began touring at 19, in the early 70s, when women weren't welcome in most areas of music. Her debut album came out two years later, and within months Fure was working with some of the biggest bands of the era. While recording her second album, Tret became interested in sound engineering, learning the trade and becoming one of the first female sound engineers in LA. Tret continues to be a major force in Women's Music, and participates at a number of levels in the industry, including songwriting, performing and sound engineering. She has her own label, Tomboy Girl Records, as well as a clothing line that celebrates the tomboy girl in all of us. In addition, she has produced a series called Music & Comedy in Madison and has co-hosted the successful festival, Tomboy Girl Fest.

Tickets to the concert cost \$18 in advance, and \$20 at the door. Contact Cynthia at 717-564-0112 for advance tickets. This is a benefit concert, with the money supporting the Womyn's Chorus.

The mission of the LGBT Center Coalition is to create common ground for the LGBT community and allies in Central Pennsylvania by providing services through spiritual, education and cultural activities that foster wholeness. The LGBT Center Coalition is a project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus brings together a diverse group of women, united by the joy of singing, to celebrate and empower women and to affirm a positive image of lesbians and feminists. Visit their websites at [www.centralpalgbtcenter.org](http://www.centralpalgbtcenter.org) and [www.cpwchorus.org](http://www.cpwchorus.org), respectively.

## Women's Circle Retreat 2008

Women's Circle is pleased to present its 7th annual retreat, being held Sept 12th through 14th at Camp Shand. It's shaping up to be one of the best ever. The theme is Music, and we'll be exploring all facets with **Mosa's** Sound and Healing Workshop, **Heidi Wert's** Bucket Drumming, and our own **Janie Womack's** Voices From the Heart workshop. We also have **Sally Meiser** giving us a Herstory of Women's Music, and **Ruth Rarick** returns to teach us Line Dancing and Swing.

This year we have **SisterBeat** performing for our Friday night dance. At the Saturday night bonfire, the workshop participants will get a chance to perform what they've learned, and we encourage you to sign up for our "Everybody's Got Some Kinda Talent Show." We started the talent show last year, and it was so much fun, with such an amazing array of talent, we wanted to do it again. **Janie Womack** and **Julie Lowery** will be MC'ing and performing, as well.

Our kitchen Goddesses, **Tiny** and **Karen**, will provide good cookin' to nourish our bodies while we nourish our Spirits at this year's retreat. You can look forward to something yummy for everybody.

We are doing something a little different this year. If you can't come to the retreat but would love to hear SisterBeat, and/or Janie and Julie, you can come to either concert for \$15.00 per ticket. It's another way to help raise money to keep the WC up and running. The cost for the weekend is on a sliding scale from \$120.00 to \$160.00, which is all inclusive of meals, lodging, workshops, and performances, not to mention, fun! There are a limited number of scholarships available, as well as a price reduction for volunteers who help out in the kitchen, so sign up soon. For more information and a registration form, visit our website at [www.pawomenscircle.org](http://www.pawomenscircle.org). Our mailing address is PO Box 99 Highspire PA, 17034. Contact Shoes or Cathy at 717-939-9729.

# Story Time

## ST. FRANCIS OF PINE CREEK

by Joe Gill

Mike tried to cover his ears as the sound of the calling turkey came through the open window flap of his tent. The sun was coming up.

Travis' funeral was a week ago. They were together for two years, and in the last three months Travis suffered from cancer. Only 25, he passed away in his sleep next to Mike.

Again, the turkey called. Travis knew all the animals and their calls. Hunting, fishing, hiking, Mike and Travis did it all together. Up here at Little Pine State Park, the pain of loneliness made Mike cry. He sat up in his sleeping bag and called out: "Stop it!! Please, just stop it," but the turkey kept calling.

Mike climbed out of his bag, put on his slippers, and opened the tent's zipper. The June morning air was brisk, as the smell of Pine Creek came up over the lower campground road. Mike looked around and saw the old cemetery, where generations of Carsons, English and Vonarx were buried. Then he saw the menagerie. There were animals all over. He saw a man sitting in their midst. As Mike watched he realized the man was actually talking to them! There were bear, deer, and birds of every kind.

Mike looked to the sky to see a huge thunderbird, an eagle-like avian with a wingspan of forty feet. "Mike! C'mon over," the guy called to him. Mike was hesitant, since several of these animals were predators. As he walked over no harm came to him, though.

"Mike, good to see you," the young man said. "Look behind you there."

Mike turned to see the turkey he had heard. It was a big tom, about four feet from talons to beard. "Who are you?" Mike asked, bewildered at the gathering. The guy called out several different animal calls. Then Mike felt a long neck and feathery hairs rubbing his own neck. He turned to see the bill and beady eyes of a plumed ostrich! An ostrich in the mountains of Northern Pennsylvania!

To be continued.....

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# Gayly Forward

"When Giving It To You Straight Just Won't Do"

Dear GF,

*Is it possible to turn yourself gay/straight? I always hear about gays "turning straight." I mean, like, they want to be straight bad enough that they're able to turn themselves straight in a sense. Is it possible to reverse the situation, so if a straight person really wanted to be gay they could? Regardless of whether it actually works or not, do you think that if you want to be gay badly enough you can convince yourself that you are? I'm just interested, 'cause you always hear about ex-gays, but never ex-straight.*

Wish For Wings

Dear WFW:

You make a very interesting point. For years I have heard about ex-gay programs, such as Courage, Exodus, and Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays. I doubt the validity of their work, and as Christopher Clauson stated, "The ex-gay movement has always been founded upon sweeping generalizations and inaccurate psychology." Many in the movement claim that homosexuals are broken, have experienced certain trauma in their formative years, and are just making poor lifestyle choices in the present, leading to their homosexuality. If they would just come to god and "insert smack on the forehead" be healed, all would be right with the world. Needless to say, I definitely disagree. Homosexuality isn't a role-play, a safe haven, or a pit stop on the way to the straight life. IMHO, it's who I am, who I was born to be, and who I will continue to be until the day I pass from this place.

However, the thought of changing from straight to gay is very intriguing. True, we don't hear of an ex-straight movement, but think about it. Doesn't just about everyone start out with the expectation of being straight thrust upon him or her? At one point or another in a LGBT life doesn't the thought occur that he/she isn't straight? So, in the LGBT community, aren't we all ex-straight?

I think the crux of the answer to your question, though, lies in your asking about "wanting it badly enough." To that, my personal response would be "no" for both sides of the equation. I believe you can ACT in a certain manner, if you want something to fit badly enough, but only you will know the truth about whether or not you are BEING. Isn't being what it should all be about, anyway?

-GF

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## I Can Report....

Gossip from the  
Lehigh Valley  
By Kitty-Mame  
Dietrich

Greetings, my gossip gluttons! Labor Day weekend has passed, and I was lucky enough to spend it at my favorite summer spot on Fire Island. I hope that your "labors" were few, and that you all were able to enjoy the last big summer weekend. Since we'll be heading into fall shortly, I think it would be only appropriate that I should finish off my summer writings by reporting on those who experienced the rise but have also taken a "fall" in the weeks since my last column. Before the gossip commences, I would like to send out my deepest condolences to my very dear sister, Vicki Dominatrix, on the passing of her beloved Aunt Lil. Though I never met her myself, I know how much she meant to Vicki, and can only imagine the loss. So, in honor of her dear Aunt, I dedicate my column this month to the memory of Aunt Lil. Now, on to the dirt.

Things changed quite a bit after my last column in regards to the Queen of Pride competition, as it gained a few more contestants. Perhaps my call for "drag queen action" inspired them. As a result, I can report that the previously mentioned "seasoned entertainer" and sole contestant at the time of my last article, DID NOT win the competition, and was quite bitter at the outcome. I guess she should have kept it a secret that she was running after all. Congratulations, Queen of Pride, Shatara!

However, Lehigh Valley Pride did not pass by with only that one tidbit of gossip. I can also report that a certain "gay pop icon", featured at this year's festival, took in quite a bit of Allentown while he was here...took into his hotel room, that is. Apparently, this "gay pop icon" couldn't keep his eyes in his head, or his "thing" in his shorts when it came to our Lehigh Valley boys! However, his wanderlust was not sated by a certain "fashionista" patron of the Cha-Cha Palace, who followed the "gay pop icon" around like a lost puppy dog the entirety of Saturday night, and managed to get so FUBAR in the process that a well-known Cha-Cha Palace "Cougar" had to just about carry him out of the bar. What is it Lassie? You're horny?!?!

Cheers to Candida's on a fabulous pre-Pride party on Friday night. I have

to say that the lavender margaritas were very original ...and tasty too...just like candy! Unfortunately, the evening was somewhat dulled when the well-tarnished "Reading royal family" showed up. I can report that the "royals" have been spotted quite frequently around the Lehigh Valley bar scene in recent weeks. Maybe they think they can get away incognito in Allentown, and still shine like new pennies. Well, it would take a lot of Tarnex to get rid of all that tarnish for that to happen!

I also made a journey on a recent sunny, summer, Saturday; to a well know "Mountain Hideaway" for a day by the pool, during which a "sudsy soiree" was being held. I must report that though the view there is usually more "autumnal" in nature, this particular day had a feeling of "spring" about it, especially when those who got the "soiree" started showed up at the party venue showing off some nice, firm "peaches", with only minimal fuzz.

Well, I guess that concludes the gossip for this summer season. Enjoy the rest of the season's warmth by taking one more jaunt to the beach or pool, and remember... have a nice trip, and I'll see you in the fall!

Love you all more than my Manolos.

-Kitty

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## **Pennsylvanians to Piccola: You Won't End Corruption**

District Democratic Senate candidate Judy Hirsh today released the following statement on the findings of a Quinnipiac University poll on ethical reform:

"This poll is yet another illustration that everyone in Pennsylvania, aside from Senate Republicans, knows that the legislature in Harrisburg is broken. A majority disapproves of the job that the State Legislature is doing. Beyond that, only a quarter of Pennsylvanians believe that proposed ethics reforms will get through the gridlock and special interest affiliations that plague Harrisburg.

"After 30 years of paying lip service to ethical reform, Senator Jeff Piccola now wants to convene a special legislative session on ethics. I applaud the idea of addressing ethical reform head-on, but considering his track record

and the political motives behind this session, won't it just be a do-nothing waste of taxpayer dollars? We need solutions, not political grandstanding. For that, we need a change in representation in Harrisburg.

"I am committed to real ethical reform, including placing limits on campaign contributions from political action committees and requiring lobbyists to report all expenditures on state legislators. These reforms are long overdue, and as the past 30 years have shown, we need a fresh face in government to get the job done. That is why I am running for this office."

*Judy Hirsh is a Democrat from Susquehanna Township and has been a community leader for over 20 years. The married mother of three children, she is also the owner of a family-owned small business in Harrisburg. For more information about Judy, please visit [www.judyhirsh.com](http://www.judyhirsh.com).*

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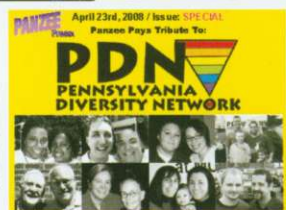
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## PDN Photo Project Comes to Lancaster

PA Diversity Network (PDN), Rainbow Rose Community and Panzee Press are excited to announce their partnership in bringing the PDN Photo Project to downtown Lancaster during Fall ArtWALK Weekend October 17th, 18th and 19th. The photo-exhibit will debut earlier in the month at **Art in the Gallery**, 324 N. Queen St. On Friday October 3rd, Liz Bradbury, project curator and photographer, will be available to take your photo with your same-sex partner. The display will be updated with these new photographs in time for ArtWALK weekend. More information is available at: [www.RainbowRoseCommunity.org](http://www.RainbowRoseCommunity.org) or you can call 717.380.1071

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